

A STRANGE NEST.

By Anna Deming Gray.

Did you ever watch two birds building their nest? They are such careful little workmen. No two kinds of birds go about their work in exactly the same way.

The oriole is the most careful and painstaking, and few if any nests are as perfectly made as his.

John Burroughs, in the "Wake Robin," tells a story about an oriole's nest. It is a very good story, and ever since I read it, I have wanted to try the same plan. He says that once a friend of his saw two orioles getting ready to build themselves a new home; he kept very still and watched them. After he knew they had chosen the exact spot for the nest, he hung from the window near which the birds were building, many brightly colored zephyrs. He placed about the same amount of each color. At once the little builders were attracted to this. They took them one by one and wove them into their house. The result was perhaps the most curious and beautiful nest ever woven. The funny part of the story is that the birds themselves seemed delighted with the result of their work.

Another story is of a lady who bought a bolt of red, white and blue baby ribbon. There were twelve yards in the bolt. She placed it on the window sill of an open window, by which she sat sewing. A little later she was called from the room. Upon her return to her work the bolt of baby ribbon could nowhere be found. The next day the empty bolt was discovered on the ground under the window, but there was no trace of the ribbon.

In the fall, while walking through the orchard one day after the leaves had fallen, what do you think she saw, high up in an apple-tree? It was a deserted red bird's nest, and into it was woven the entire bolt of red, white, and blue ribbon. One end of it fluttered in the wind and looked like a small flag. I do not suppose that the baby birds in this family sang "America" instead of the usual red bird's song, but anyway they had a patriotic mother and father.

It is a good plan for us to learn to keep our eyes open, and to notice what is going on about us.

The World's Supply of Nickel.

In contradistinction to the mines of southern British Columbia, which were started for gold and silver and found copper, are the wonderful mines of Sudbury, Ont., that were started for copper and found nickel. Probably more mines are discovered by chance than by systematic prospecting, and the romance that generally appertains to the discovery certainly clings to the finding of pyrrhotite in Sudbury. Lost in the forest a resident of Sudbury was found in the morning, seated on an outcrop of ore that subsequently proved to be the foundation of the largest nickel-gaining industry in the world.

An English firm of 'ained control of the mines but succeeded in bawling the management in an incredibly foolish manner, and it was not until American engineers directed operations that profits began to accrue. In 1889 Canada produced less than 1,000,000 pounds of nickel; the production, last year, was probably in the region of 15,000,000 pounds, of which about 90 per cent. finds its way across the border. So far as human foresight can tell, there seems no mineral in the economic world so likely to maintain its market value as nickel. Outside the production of New Caledonia, Canada supplies practically all the world's requirements, but these requirements become more and more each year, and new discoveries of the metal are not keeping pace with the increasing demand. It is, however, reported that north of Sudbury considerable areas of the mineral have been found, and it will be interesting to note what effect this will have on the market price of the metal, which, at present, is largely controlled by the International Nickel Company.—American Monthly Review of Reviews.

A most important part in this work. Our women are great and brave." Captain Kock says he organized the mutiny of the Sveaborg fortress but failed in his project there because the navy did not join and bombard the works. For his part in this enterprise Kock had to leave the country.

The governor of the state of Bahia, Brazil is contemplating the construction in Glasgow of four new ships, two of the same tonnage as the Comandante and two of double that size, mainly for cargo. The voyages of these vessels would include all the principal national ports.

Consul J. E. Dunning reports that an electric railroad 85 miles in length and to cost \$17,000,000 is to be built between Genoa and Milan.

Roller skates were invented by Plympton in 1863.

Tale of a Mouse.

"Oh, do send a man out here, there's a mouse in my desk." That said Miss Ida M. Edgerton, principal of Scranton school, to Secretary Gammel over the telephone a day or two ago, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Oh, a mouse isn't so dangerous," said Gammel soothingly. "Maybe one of the pupils can catch it."

"Oh, but it's dead," exclaimed the agitated teacher.

"Dead!" repeated Gammel; "don't mean to say you're afraid of a dead mouse?" He repressed a chuckle at the idea.

"Oh, no, no," assured the teacher; "you see, it seems to have been dead some time. It—it must have died here in the desk. It—"

"I see," said Gammel promptly; "it's been dead so long, you wish it were alive so it could run away. We'll send a carpenter out at once."

A Noisy Stamp.

O. Henry, the author, vouches for the following:

An effeminate young man daintily placed 2 cents on a drug counter and asked the clerk for a stamp. The clerk tore one off and slid it over to him. The young man drew an envelope from his pocket.

"Would you mind sticking it for me and placing it on here?" he flapped.

"Sure," said the clerk, as he started to stamp the letter.

"Oh, stay!" cautioned the young man in great alarm. "Not that way, I beg of you. Kindly place the stamp with the top toward the outer edge of the envelope."

"Sure," said the obliging clerk. "But what in thunder's that for?"

"Why, you see," confided the youth blushing, "I'm a student in the Cosmopolitan correspondence school and that's our college yell."

A Pony's Good Sense.

A girl ten years old, named Mary Sears, living in Arkansas, was riding her pony along a highway when he shied at a cow and she was thrown on the ground and suffered a broken arm. It was a little to the nearest house, and the girl was not able to mount again and in too much pain to walk.

The pony seemed to understand this after a time, and he galloped away and reached the house of a planter and kept up a whinnying until he was taken notice of and a man sent to follow him back to where the girl was found. It was plain that the intelligent animal knew that something out of the usual had happened, and in this case was as good a messenger as a boy would have been.

Signor Testi, the famous composer, has an odd hobby—that of aphorizing. The great author of "Good-bye" when he is not composing and when he is not entertaining or teaching is upholstering. Every chair in his wife's drawing-room was upholstered by Testi himself. The composer is continually on the lookout for fine old chair frames. All he finds he buys and upholsters, keeping the finished product for himself or sending it as a gift to some friend.

With British capital and British engineers China will now build the Canton-Hankow railway. It is expected that it will be completed in three years and will eventually connect with the Hankow-Canton trunk line.

boy," said the Senator, "it was like a fine bottle of champagne." "Yes?" murmured the reporter, rather taken aback. "Yes," said Senator Tillman, "lots of froth and very dry."

The Ceylon pearl fisheries ended on April 2, having lasted thirty-six days. In that time pearls valued at \$312,000 were brought up.

Sherman Markham, a young farmer of Oriskany, Kentucky, recently paid the minister a peck of shellbark hickory nuts for marrying him to Miss Ida Bailey.

A true enemy halves our joys and doubles our troubles.

A richer treasure than that of Gold is self-respect.

Vanity is chief courtier in the Kingdom of the Mind.

The first step to find the way to work is to find the will.

Tranquillity is one of the first of the virtues.

The only enemy which a man owes to fear is the evil in his own nature.

Treachery is simply selfishness in disguise.

Worry is the evil angel of work.

No wonder so many women wonder why they are in love.



At the Baseball Game.

She—That player got angry when he hit three times at the ball and missed it.

He—Yes, he does seem put out.



No; Of Course Not.

Jigson—He'll never get along.

Jogson—No, I don't believe he could even make a successful failure.



After the Concert.

She—After your duet there were some in the audience applauding and some hissing.

He—Yes. They were applauding me and hissing the other fellow.



A Truthful Girl.

May—When you and Fred were sitting on the porch last night, what did your mother say?

Ellen—She said it was cool and asked if I had anything around me.

May—Ah, a shawl?

Ellen—No. Fred's coat sleeve.

Ants' Cowsheds.

One of the most interesting studies of insect life is the relationship between ants and plant-life, or aphids. These plant-lice supply honeydew from the juices which they take as food from plants. The ants are very fond of this sweet substance, and care for the aphids in a manner that seems to us surprisingly intelligent. They sometimes carry them bodily to a better feeding ground and drive away certain of their enemies. It is claimed that they even build sheds of mud in the crotches of shrubs and small trees. On account of this insect relationship, one may truthfully call the ants "farmers," the aphids "cows," and these protecting mud cases "cowsheds."—St. Nicholas.

Men and the henna are the only animals that laugh, but the laugh of the beast is mournful.

A reporter asked Senator Tillman rather indignantly what he thought of a certain spy's speech. "My

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